

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: September 7, 2006
Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Melissa Gannie
Phone: (360) 753-0523

WSP Chief John R. Batiste Appoints New State Fire Marshal

Chief John R. Batiste announced today that following a nationwide search, Michael G. Matlick has been appointed as Bureau Commander of the Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau, and will serve as Washington State's Fire Marshal.

Matlick spent 30 years as a law enforcement officer with the Washington State Patrol. His assignments included traffic enforcement and investigations, Commander of the State Patrol's Human Resource Division and Training Division, Acting State Fire Marshal, and Commander of the Investigative Services Bureau.

Mike retired in 2003, and returned to the State Patrol in February 2005 to direct the State Fire Training Academy. In September 2005, he was again appointed Acting State Fire Marshal.

"I feel very confident in Mike's abilities to continue leading the State Fire Marshal's office in their efforts to save lives through fire prevention and preparedness," said Chief Batiste.

Part of that effort includes a recently unveiled fire safety slogan: "Prevent Fires – It's Your Job!" This slogan was developed by a statewide coalition to call attention to personal responsibility in preventing fires.

According to newly appointed State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick: "Fires are no accident and are predictable and preventable. It is our mission to educate citizens on how they can prevent fires from starting in their homes."

For additional information about the Office of the State Fire Marshal you may visit www.wsp.wa.gov.



PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.